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Feb. 2, 2001
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NEWS RELEASE

EVERYTHING YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT SAX: SAXOPHONE CONFERENCE SLATED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

DAYTON, Ohio — It's a recipe for pure heat: Combine the University of Dayton's annual Saxfest saxophone clinic with the North American Saxophone Alliance's (NASA) biennial regional conference. Spice up the mix with some of the nation's hottest sax artists and clinicians, then add the icing — a dollop of Branford Marsalis. These cats will be cooking on campus.

"The Multi-Colored Saxophone," a three-day performance and education symposium for professionals, students, educators and fans, will run Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 15-17, at UD. The combined Saxfest/NASA production will feature clinics, discussions, lessons, master classes, performance improvisation, concerts and "anything else that has to do with saxophone music," Morris said.

Registration for the event is through UD's office of special programs and continuing education at (937) 229-2605. Tickets for the conference, which include a concert by the Branford Marsalis quartet, range from \$5 to \$25 and are available by calling the University box office at (937) 229-2545.

"The Multi-Colored Saxophone" schedule features back-to-back performances and clinics each day and concerts each evening. Participants will hear and work with noted ensembles such as The Con Dominio Do Sax of South America and James Umble and the Cleveland Duo as well as solo artists such as Paul Bro, George Wolf, Steve Duke, Debra Richtmeyer and Otis Murphy.

Highlighting the three-day event is a concert by tenor sax great Branford Marsalis and his quartet, featuring pianist Joey Calderazzo, bassist Eric Revis and drummer Jeff "Tain" Watts. The Dayton Jazz Ensemble will join the Saturday night jam.

Blending the NASA and Saxfest conferences to create a multidimensional symposium

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was a natural, said Morris, a member of NASA region five — which includes Ohio, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan.

Every other year, NASA sponsors regional conferences to provide a forum for skilled artists — professionals and college music educators and students — to perform and share information and research. “Region five is the most popular of NASA’s 10 regions in the United States and Canada,” Morris said. “It’s the largest in terms of membership and has the biggest names in terms of teachers.”

At the University of Dayton, workshops take place yearly in the form of Saxfest — conferences designed to provide high school students from Ohio and surrounding states the opportunity to hear performances, participate in clinics and hone their skills.

“Combining NASA and Saxfest will make this the hottest event in the history of the regional conference,” Morris said. “Our students will have the opportunity to listen to and learn from some of the best saxophonists in the world.”

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For media interviews, call **Willie Morris III** at (937) 229-3994.